

REMARKS

Claims 3-6, 8, 9, 12-16, 24 and 25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claim 16 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2, claim 25 is added to rewrite claim 5 in independent form, and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 2 and 5 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, independent claim 16 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2, and claim 25 is added to rewrite claim 5 in independent form. Thus, claims 16 and 25, along with dependent claims 3-6, 8, 9, 12-15 and 24, are allowable.

II. §103(a) Rejections of the Claims

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 12-16 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Worley, U.S. Patent No. 6,393,183; and rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Worley in view of Ewen et al. (Ewen), U.S. Patent No. 6,735,731. The rejections are rendered moot by the amendment to claim 16.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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